

April 30, 1975

oppose removing this amendment for those reasons and many more and hope that the body would see fit to leave it on, pass the bill as it is and hope you defeat the Goodrich amendment.

PRESIDENT: Senator Frank Lewis.

SENATOR F. LEWIS: I have got a better deal for you for the next amendment, Mr. President. The next amendment provides that we remove the Barnett amendment and the Duis amendment and go back to the pure form of the bill, that the sales tax on food should be removed. I'd like to compliment the City Council of Bellevue for seeing the light and deciding that to remove the tax on food wouldn't be too bad. I hope that the fine councilmen from Omaha and Lincoln would follow suit with a city that has the same kind of taxation, after discussing the alternatives. The city of council of Bellevue, and I have put a newspaper article before each and everyone of you, decided that the proper thing to do was to remove the tax on food. I think that Senator Goodrich is half right on this issue, that the Barnett amendment ought to be removed, but I would just as soon wait and remove them both at the same time in an act of concern and compassion for people to remove an unfair tax on them. So I think I will wait until the next time around and remove two of them simultaneously.

PRESIDENT: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I have talked to Senator Goodrich and suggested that he make this attempt so we could get a feel right now for whether or not the men who voted and the others who voted for this bill were prepared to stick with it on Final Reading even though the awesome city council of Omaha through its devastating lobbyists and its mayor and the president of the City Council have been exerting tremendous pressure on members of this Legislature. So this is like testing the water but before we get to that point I would like to ask Senator Goodrich a question or two, if I may.

SENATOR GOODRICH: Yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Goodrich, the other day in your absence, I gave you credit for having an adding machine like brain, so I want you to help me out here today. If you can give me any kind of figure at all, and I am not holding you to it precisely, but if you think about revenue sharing money, streets, sewers, code enforcement, any kind of money that the federal government gives to a city, river front, if you lump it all together, how much money potentially could Omaha receive from the federal government in the coming year?

SENATOR GOODRICH: I, frankly, would have to look...I have a copy of the city budget back in my office. I could get that answer for you in about two minutes by going back there and getting it, then coming back here. I just don't happen to have it in my head.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Do you think they will get five million dollars?